will view education as a means of social transformation and assist in the establishment of an egalitarian society. These values will also pervade all training programmes conducted by the NCERT as also the new textbooks which will be developed consequent to the adoption of the National Curriculum Framework.

Free education to students

4085. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many State Governments have been imparting free education to the school students and up to which class this facility is available, State-wise;

(b) whether there are any States not affording free education to school boys and girls, and if so, whether these States would also be brought at par;

(c) the State where free education is extended up to college and university level, fully or partly;

(d) what is the percentage of those taking elementary education up to the age of 14 years; and

(e) by when, illiteracy would be eradicated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) 25 States and 7 UTs were providing free education at elementary level (class I to V) in Government Schools as per available statistics for 1998-99 and 1999-2000. Some of these States were providing free education upto VIM class and some other States were providing free education upto X or XII class.

(c) 10 States and 2 UTs were providing free education to girls at the college and university level fully or partly during 1998-2001.

(d) 82.5%.

(e) The target of National Literacy Mission is to achieve a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007.